

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-15, 17-30, 32, 33, and 42-45 are now pending in the application. Claims 34-41 are now cancelled. Claim 45 is now amended to present the claim in independent form. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW

Applicant's representative, Brent G. Seitz, thanks Examiner Araj for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of September 5, 2007. During the interview, Examiner Araj indicated that independent Claim 19 and those claims dependent therefrom are also allowed, even though the outstanding Office Action does not specifically address these claims.

Applicant's representative, Brent G. Seitz, further thanks Examiner Araj for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of September 13, 2007. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that the claims as amended herein are allowable and that this application is now in a condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 34-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schultheiss et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,755,835) in view of Wolf (U.S. Pat. No. 6,629,977), and further in view of Baker et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,569,251).

Claims 34-41 are now cancelled. Therefore, this rejection is now moot. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 3-11, 13-15, 17, 18 and 42-44 are allowed. During the telephonic interview of September 5, 2007, Examiner Araj further indicated that independent Claim 19 and those claims dependent therefrom are also allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the allowable subject matter of these claims.

Claim 45 stands objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim, but would be allowable if written in independent form. Applicant now amends Claim 45 to include the subject matter of Claim 34 from which it depends. Therefore, Claim 45 is also now in a condition for allowance.


CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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